

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9-10 are pending in this application. Claim 8 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claims 9-10 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner for being drawn to non-elected subject matter. By this Amendment, Claims 1-2, 4 and 7 are amended. No new matter is presented herein.

Specification

The Abstract is objected to for containing informalities therein. Enclosed herein is a Substitute Abstract which is believed to amend the originally filed Abstract responsive to the objection. A marked-up version of the originally filed Abstract is also enclosed indicating the changes made thereto by the Substitute Abstract. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The disclosure is objected to for informalities therein. The Specification is amended herein in a manner believed to be responsive to the objection. In particular, Applicants respectfully note the discussion of the alloy "Inver 42" in the application is a result of a typographical error. Actually, the alloy should be identified by the term INVAR 42, which is a nickel/iron-based alloy containing 42% nickel. A search of the USPTO database failed to uncover any Trademarks for the INVAR 42 alloy Trademark. However, it appears as if the term INVAR itself may be the subject of a Trademark. See the enclosed screen shot taken from the USPTO's Trademark Electronic Search system a/k/a TESS. Applicants further wish to note that "INVAR" is generically known to be a nickel/iron-based alloy containing nickel not less than 36%. As such, Applicants

respectfully submit the Specification is believed to be amended responsive to the objection.

Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Claim Objection

Claim 1 is objected to for informalities therein. Claim 1 is amended herein in a manner believed to be responsive to the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The claims are amended responsive to the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Publication No. 2002-115059 to Hirakawa et al. (Hirakawa). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites a method for preparing a graphite nanofiber, which comprises supplying raw gases onto a surface of a substrate provided thereon with a catalyst layer for the growth of graphite nanofibers according to a CVD technique, wherein the method comprises the steps of forming the catalyst layer having a desired thickness directly onto the surface of the substrate; and forming, on the catalyst layer, a deposited layer having a controlled overall thickness and which comprises a graphite nanofiber layer and a non-fibrous layer, wherein the substrate is a single layer structure and is one of a glass substrate or silicon wafer.

As is clear from above, the graphite nanofiber recited by Claim 1 includes a catalyst layer that is formed directly on a single layer glass substrate or silicon wafer.

Hirakawa discloses a substrate having a two-layer structure, a noncatalytic metallic thin film (base layer) is formed on top of a glass or silicon substrate (lower layer). A catalytic metallic thin film is then formed on the noncatalytic metallic thin film or base layer and not directly onto the glass or silicon substrate or lower layer. See paragraph [0011] of Hirakawa. Put simply, Hirakawa does not appear to disclose or suggest the catalytic metallic thin film is formed directly on the glass substrate or silicon wafer.

To qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102, each and every feature of a rejected claim must be disclosed by the applied art of record. As explained above, Hirakawa does not disclose or suggest each and every feature recited by Claim 1. Therefore, Claim 1 is not anticipated by Hirakawa and should be deemed allowable over same.

Claims 2-7 depend from Claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims be deemed allowable for at least the same reasons Claim 1 is allowable, as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,630,772 to Bower et al. (Bower). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 is discussed above.

While Bower teaches a method for preparing carbon nanotubes on a substrate, Bower fails to disclose or suggest the substrate is a glass substrate or a silicon wafer.

To qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102, each and every feature of a rejected claim must be disclosed by the applied art of record. As explained above, Bower does not disclose or suggest each and every feature recited by Claim 1. Therefore, Claim 1 is not anticipated by Bower and should be deemed allowable over same.

Claims 2-5 depend from Claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims be deemed allowable for at least the same reasons Claim 1 is allowable, as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by WO 00/63115 to Dai et al. (Dai). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 is discussed above.

Dai discloses the catalyst is either incorporated into the substrate or is included in the carbon containing material. See the paragraph bridging pages 3-4 of Dai. Dai does not disclose the catalyst material is formed directly onto the substrate with the carbon containing material then formed on the catalyst.

To qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102, each and every feature of a rejected claim must be disclosed by the applied art of record. As explained above, Dai does not disclose or suggest each and every feature recited by Claim 1. Therefore, Claim 1 is not anticipated by Dai and should be deemed allowable over same.

Claim 2 depends from Claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that this dependent claims be deemed allowable for at least the same reasons Claim 1 is allowable, as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bower in view of Dai. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 6 depends from Claim 1 and incorporates all of the subject matter recited therein. Claim 1 is discussed above. Bower and Dai, as well as their failure to disclose each feature recited by Claim 1, are discussed above as well.

To establish *prima facie* obviousness, each feature of a rejected claim must be taught or suggested by the applied art of record. See M.P.E.P. §2143.03. As discussed above, Bower and Dai, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest each and every feature recited by Claim 1, let alone Claim 6. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit Claim 6 is not rendered obvious in view of the applied teachings of Bower and Dai and should be deemed allowable over the references for at least the same reasons Claim 1 is allowable, as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bower in view of Hirakawa. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 7 depends from Claim 1 and incorporates all of the subject matter recited therein. Claim 1 is discussed above. Bower and Hirakawa, as well as their failure to disclose each feature recited by Claim 1, are discussed above as well.

To establish *prima facie* obviousness, each feature of a rejected claim must be taught or suggested by the applied art of record. See M.P.E.P. §2143.03. As discussed above, Bower and Hirakawa, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest each and every feature recited by Claim 1, let alone Claim 7. Therefore, Applicants respectfully

submit Claim 7 is not rendered obvious in view of the applied teachings of Bower and Hirakawa and should be deemed allowable over the references for at least the same reasons Claim 1 is allowable, as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections, allowance of Claims 1-7, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 026390-00011.**

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure: Screen shot from TESS

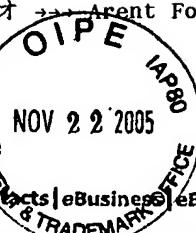
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